



## For More Information About DVBE Certification

Visit the Office of Small Business & DVBE Services (OSDS):  
[www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified)  
or contact OSDS at (916) 375-4940 or [OSDSHelp@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:OSDSHelp@dgs.ca.gov)

## For Information About Veteran Services and Benefits

Visit the CalVet website at: [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov)

## Resources

The DVBE certification program does not provide business start-up assistance. For such information you may contact the following:

- The Small Business Administration (SBA)—[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).
- Veterans Business Outreach Center—[www.vbocix.org](http://www.vbocix.org); (916) 527-8400 or [admin@vbocix.org](mailto:admin@vbocix.org).
- CA DVB Alliance—[www.cadvbe.org](http://www.cadvbe.org) or (916) 446-3510.
- The Elite Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses (SDVOB) Network—[www.elitesdvob.org](http://www.elitesdvob.org) or (619) 284-9922.

## For Information on DGS Outreach Events

Visit the Communication & Outreach Section:  
[www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/communicationsoutreach](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/communicationsoutreach)  
or contact us at (916) 375-4400 or [Advocate@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:Advocate@dgs.ca.gov).



**DGS**

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# INCREASE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WITH STATE GOVERNMENT GET DVBE CERTIFIED!



The State of California established the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program to increase business opportunities for the DVBE community. State agencies are required to strive to award at least 3 per cent of their annual contracting dollars to certified DVBEs. The program helps DVBEs participate on a more level playing field when competing for state contracts.

For complete information on the DVBE certification process and how to do business with the state, go to: [www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified).



## Benefits of California DVBE Certification

- Your business is added to the state's Department of General Services' database used by state and local agencies to find DVBEs.
- DVBE subcontractors can find contracting opportunities and place ads seeking work with potential prime contractors at no cost.
- The SB/DVBE Option allows state agencies to contract directly with a California-certified Small Business (SB) or DVBE for goods, services, and information technology goods and services valued from \$5,000.01 to \$249,999.99 (up to \$281,000 for public works contracts) after obtaining price quotes from at least two SBs or two DVBEs.
- The state may offer up to a 5 per cent incentive to bidders that promise to use DVBEs.
- Additional contracting opportunities with reciprocity partners (certain local government entities and public utilities) who accept the state's DVBE certification.



## What You Should Know

DVBE certification is typically issued for one year unless the DVBE also has SB/Micro Business (MB) certification. SBs/DVBEs are subject to periodic reviews while actively certified.

Certification does not guarantee you will be awarded a government contract. Contracting with the state is very competitive—you must market your business to the government agencies.

If an applicant has a bidding opportunity, he/she may request an expedited certification. Instructions for this are at [www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified).

### Small Business Certification

We highly recommend that all DVBEs also certify as a small business. To see if you qualify as a small business, look at the Small Business (SB) Certification Requirements section on the certification website. When applying, fill out the small business form first. Upon completion, most of that information will be transferred over to the DVBE application.



## How to Apply

Complete the online application at [www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified) or complete a paper application ([www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/pd/smallbus/std812.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/pd/smallbus/std812.pdf)) and submit it by mail. A firm is not automatically entitled to DVBE certification. The application and support documents are evaluated to determine certification eligibility.

### DVBE Eligibility Requirements

- Disabled veterans must have a service-connected disability of at least 10 per cent declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense.
- The firm must be at least 51 per cent owned by one or more disabled veterans domiciled in California.
- Disabled veterans must have an established business that is operational and active prior to submission of an application.
- Daily business operations must be managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans. The disabled veteran(s) who manages and controls the business is not required to be the disabled veteran business owner(s).
- The disabled veteran shall own at least 51 per cent of every piece of equipment to be rented to the state. Refer to [www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/programs/osds.aspx](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/programs/osds.aspx) for DVBE Equipment Ownership Requirements.
- Home office must be located in the United States and cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or other foreign based business.
- Limited Liability Companies must be wholly owned by one or more disabled veterans.

### Support Documents Needed

Federal tax returns as filed with the Internal Revenue Service for the three most recent tax years for the business and each owner.

Additional support documents are required to establish eligibility. For a detailed list of support documents that may be requested, based on your firm's business structure, visit [www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/pd/smallbus/std812.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/pd/smallbus/std812.pdf).

